in 1973 to avoid allotment of symbols reserved for political parties in Cantonment Board Elections;

(d) if so, the reasons for elections in some Cantonments being held on political party symbols despite directions of Government; and

(e) whether Government propose to issue directions to such Cantonment Boards to hold elections without political party symbols?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) In 12 Cantonment Boards elections are contested on political party symbols while in the remaining except Badami Bagh where position is not verifiable due to records burnt during the last terrorist attack, elections are not contested on political party symbols.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Presidents of Cantonment Boards have been advised to brief the Returning Officers, not to allot as far as possible and in their discretion party symbols to candidates contesting Cantonment Board elections.

(d) & (e) Neither the Cantonments Electoral Rules, 1945 nor the 1973 letter have prohibited use of political party symbols in Cantonment Board elections. It is the discretion of the Returning Officer to allot symbols to the candidates in conformity, as far as possible, with their choice as per Rule 22-C (3) of the Cantonment Electoral Rules, 1945.

Storage of Ammunition

2233. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5182 rounds of ammunition valued at Rs. 1.16 crore issued to user units were declared unserviceable due to improper storage by an Ammunition Depot, Dappar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far to avoid the recurrence of such loss in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Out of 78983 rounds of 30 millimeter ammunition issued by

Ammunition Depot Dapper, 5158 rounds issued to six Army units were declared unserviceable between the years 1995 to 2000. The ammunition was stored at depot on plinths covered with tarpaulins due to paucity of covered storage accommodation. The ammunition was thus exposed to vagaries of weather.

(c) Adequate funds have been made available to construct proper ammunition storehouses in the existing ammunition depots. Funds made available during last three years and the current financial year are as under:

(i)	1999-2000	Rs. 121 crores
(ii)	2000-2001	Rs. 228 crores
(iii)	2001-2002	Rs. 147 crores
(iv)	2002-2003	Rs. 334 crores

Supply of VPS. MK-II Radio Set and Radio Trunk System

2234. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions of the order for the supply of VPS. MK.-II Radio Set, Radio Trunk System placed with the Punjab Wireless System Ltd. on the 31st March, 1999 by the Army Headquarters;

(b) the total amount of advance payment given to the company for the execution of the supply order;

(c) whether it is a fact that company failed to execute the said supply order and whether advanced money has been recovered from the company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) A Statement is enclosed. (*See* below)

(b) A total amount of Rs. 6,06,10,195/- was paid as advance to M/s. Punjab Wireless System Ltd. against the Supply Orders as per details given below:—

(i) Rs. 39 lakhs for procurement of quantity 500 TVS 2UM Radio Set VPS.MK-II;